



An Update from Secretary Kawamura

**December 2006: Governor's Awards, 25 X '25 Energy Initiative,  
Leopold Conservation Award and State Employees' Food Drive**

**Happy Holidays from CDFA ...**

**The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards (GEELA) were announced this month.** I am very proud to inform you of several California agriculture recipients who've demonstrated a tremendous commitment to preserving our natural resources, while also contributing to our economy.



Among the [GEELA 2006 recipients](#) was the [Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission](#), an organization that promotes the Lodi region wine industry as well as the use of farming practices that are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially equitable. Their program includes California's first sustainable winegrowing standards that were peer-reviewed by scientists, the academic

community and environmental community. Also presented with an award was the [Agricultural Internal Combustion Engine Conversion Incentive](#), a partnership among businesses; associations; federal, state and local agencies; and agricultural and environmental groups. They encourage PG&E's agricultural customers to voluntarily convert to less-polluting, electric-powered irrigation pumps. The [Hearst Ranch Conservation Project](#) was given an award and is a partnership between the largest private working cattle ranch along the coast and several land conservation organizations. Their efforts have resulted in the conservation of 128-square-miles of fish and wildlife habitat and a conservation easement on an additional 80,000 acres.

These and the other award recipients have each demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions to conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, and building public-private partnerships.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger [endorses the 25 x '25 initiative](#), a movement dedicated to achieving 25 percent of the nation's energy needs from renewable resources by the year 2025. This national effort seeks to raise the visibility of renewable fuels as sources of energy as well as to highlight the important contributions made to our energy economy from agriculture, solar, wind and biomass sources.

Next month I host a meeting of the 25 x '25 Steering Committee. The meeting will provide an opportunity for our State Board of Food and Agriculture and California's agricultural industry to learn more about this national initiative.

As part of the meeting we are arranging tours for the committee to showcase California's renewable fuels potential and hearing from industry organizations on how [25 x'25](#) can benefit their memberships. Meetings will be held in Sacramento and additional information will be available on our website.





Brad and Randy Lange. Photo: California Farm Bureau Federation.

I'm pleased to offer my congratulations to [Brad and Randy Lange of Lange Twins Wines Estates in Lodi](#). They are the proud recipients of the first-ever Leopold Conservation Award in California. The Lange Brothers farm nearly 6,500 acres of vineyards along the Mokelumne River where they use a wide variety of practices that help conserve natural resources. These include a complex river restoration project, natural predators to combat pests, sprayers that reduce chemical and water use, and solar power for their vineyard operations and farmhouse. The award demonstrates the power of farmers and ranchers to sustain a healthy environment and healthy

businesses. The award was given by the [Sand County Foundation](#), in partnership with Sustainable Conservation and the [California Farm Bureau Federation](#). I'd also like to acknowledge the other finalists -- the Rickert Family who operate Prather Ranch in Shasta County and Jack Varian of V6 Ranch in Monterey County.

California farmers and ranchers are leading the way when it comes to demonstrating the power of agriculture to provide food and fiber *and* protect and enhance California's resources.

I am especially proud this holiday season to work with such a generous industry and department. As the lead agency for the [California State Employees' Food Drive](#), and with assistance from Jim Martin of the Department of Water Resources, CDFA has once again partnered with the Farmers' Rice Cooperative to purchase rice at a special rate to give to those in need. This year the Farmers' Rice Cooperative extended the program to all state agencies. With our department's coordination, and the rice cooperative's generous price reductions, we purchased 45,276 pounds of rice (1,029 44-pound bags). This impressive amount of rice will be delivered to [Foodlink](#) who will in turn distribute it to needy families in the greater Sacramento area. Thank you to the [Farmers' Rice Cooperative](#) and all the charitable state employees who consistently give to those in need.



And as always, thank you for your support. Feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to the new year and the promising opportunities for agriculture it presents. My best wishes to you all for a healthy and prosperous 2007.

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